

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A navigation system comprising:

a present position detecting device for detecting a present position;

a plurality of memory devices ~~each capable of reading out road map data which is recorded therein~~, each of which stores the same road map data;

a navigation controlling device for controlling a navigation operation in correspondence with the detected present position by using the road map data; and

a road map data reading device for accessing one of the memory devices, which is selected in accordance with a predetermined condition, and reading out the road map data required for the navigation operation ~~therefrom~~ directly from the selected memory device.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 1, wherein said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, which is indicated by a priority flag set in advance.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 1, wherein said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, which is capable of reading out the road map data updated at the latest.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 1, wherein said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, in accordance with management information of the road map data stored in the memory devices.

Claim 5 (Original): A navigation system according to Claim 4, further comprising a management information storage device for extracting the management information from the memory devices and holding the extracted management information respectively.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 5, wherein said management information storage device holds name information indicative of a name of the road map data, and
said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, in which a presence of the road map data is confirmed in accordance with the name information.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 5, wherein said management information storage device holds date and time information indicative of date and time when the road map data is updated, and
said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed, which is capable of reading out the road map data corresponding to the date and time information indicative of latest date and time.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 1, further comprising a differential management information storage device for extracting the management information from the memory devices and holding differential management information indicative of a difference between the management information extracted from one memory device and that extracted from another memory device, wherein

said road map data reading device selects the memory device to be accessed in accordance with the differential management information.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A navigation system comprising:

- a present position detecting device for detecting a present position;
- a first memory device capable of reading out road map data from a record medium in which the road map data is recorded;
- a second memory device of non-volatile type, capable of reading out the road map data therefrom and writing the road map data thereinto;
- a navigation controlling device for controlling a navigation operation in correspondence with the detected present position by using the road map data;
- a road map data transferring device for controlling said first memory device to read out the road map data from said record medium at a predetermined timing, and then transferring and storing the read out road map data to said second memory device; and
- a road map data reading device for selecting one of said first and second memory devices in accordance with a predetermined condition, accessing the selected one of said first and second memory devices and reading out the road map data required for the navigation operation ~~therefrom~~ directly from the selected memory device.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 9, further comprising a management information storage device for extracting management information of the road map data in said first memory device and management information of the road map data in said second memory device, and holding the extracted management information respectively, wherein

said road map data transferring device selects the road map data to be transferred in accordance with the management information, and

said road map data reading device selects one of said first and second memory devices in accordance with the management information.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 10, wherein said management information storage device holds name information indicative of a name of the road map data, and

said road map data transferring device compares the name information of the road map data in said first memory device with that in said second memory device, and selects the road map data, which is not stored in said second memory device, as the road map data to be transferred.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 10, wherein said management information storage device holds date and time information indicative of date and time when the road map data is updated, and

said road map data transferring device compares the date and time information of the road map data in said first memory device with that in said second memory device, and selects

the road map data, whose date and time in said second memory device is older than that in said first memory device, as the road map data to be transferred.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 9, wherein said road map data transferring device transfers the road map data when said record medium is set to said first memory device.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 9, wherein said second memory device is capable of writing and reading the road map data at an access speed faster than that of said first memory device.

Claim 15 (Original): A navigation system according to Claim 14, wherein said second memory device comprises a hard disc device.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A navigation system according to Claim 9, wherein a plurality of block road map data, which are obtained by dividing a whole map for each unit block, are recorded in said record medium,

said road map data transferring device transfers the block road map data, and

said road map data reading device reads the block road map data.

Claim 17 (Original): A navigation system comprising:

a present position detecting device for detecting a present position;

a first memory device capable of reading out map data from a record medium in which the map data is recorded;

a second memory device of non-volatile type, capable of reading out the map data therefrom and writing the map data thereinto;

a navigation controlling device for controlling a navigation operation in correspondence with the detected present position by using the map data;

a differential management information generating device for comparing management information of the map data in said first memory device with management information of the map data in said second memory device at a predetermined timing, and generating differential management information indicative of a difference between the compared management informations;

a differential management information storing device for storing the generated differential management information; and

a map data reading device for selecting one of said first and second memory devices in accordance with the differential management information, accessing the selected one of said first and second memory devices and reading out the map data required for the navigation operation therefrom.